

the great west, by a line of transportation 400 miles shorter to the head of ocean navigation than any other route in existence.

GENERAL regret is expressed by the citizens of St. Thomas at the failure of Mr. D. Ferguson, who for the past sixteen years has conducted a boot and shoe business in that city, and has thought it advisable to make an assignment. He carried a large stock, valued at \$9,500, and owing to the shrinkage in value of the stock and of real estate, and also the dullness of the trade, found he could not meet his obligations. Mr. Ferguson made an offer of settlement, which was accepted by all his large creditors, and by all, indeed, but two with whom he had not traded much. These not accepting, he made an assignment covering all his stock and real estate. The assets are valued at \$15,000 and the liabilities \$11,000. The store is still open, and it is likely a settlement will be effected.

AN offer of compromise of 30 per cent. is made to the creditors of J. E. Walmsley & Co., wholesale grocers, Belleville. Mr. W. Walmsley is the sole proprietor. Early this year he bought the wholesale stock of Pitcrathley & Co. in that city at 70 per cent. This, with dull trade and slow collections, has involved him in difficulty. His liabilities will now exceed \$20,000, about half of which is due relatives.

—Messrs. Boyd Bros., confectioners, Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., have assigned. They owe about \$2,000, and to pay this sum have nominal assets of \$700, certainly a poor showing. —In March, 1893, Charles Brain became tired farming and exchanged his farm for a general stock of goods and a store building in Huntsville which contained them. No doubt he has fully realized his mistake, as he has been obliged to assign.—George Kiefhaber, boot and shoe dealer, Preston, is involved, probably through the recent difficulties of a Hamilton manufacturing house. In that town this line of trade has been suffering from competition and he now assigns.

AMONG the latest Montreal failures and business changes we note the following:—J. D. Baker, a manufacturer of plaster, ceiling ornaments, etc., has made assignment of his estate, showing liabilities of \$38,049, of which \$34,000 is due on mortgage.—N. Laporte & Fils, manufacturers of cooking ranges, etc., heretofore noted insolvent, are offering 40 cents on the dollar.—A demand of assignment has been served upon the estate of L. J. Herard,

hardware. Frequent suits had been entered against the late Mr. Herard during the past year or so, and he committed suicide last July, as the result of his business troubles it is presumed.—Thomas Donnelly, a master carter and trader, is an absentee, and, upon the petition of an Ontario creditor, a meeting of his creditors is ordered for Oct. 8th.—O. Chicoine, shoes, recently assigned, offers his creditors 25 cents, in payments at 2, 4 and 6 months.—Brophy & Doherty began business in the grocery line last April. A few days ago their premises were under seizure for quite a small claim, and now a demand has been made in insolvency.—Z. Coutu, a master carter, has assigned owing \$1,793.

STOCKS IN MONTREAL.

MONTREAL, September 30th, 1896.

Stocks.	Highest.	Lowest.	Total.	Sellers.	Buyers.	Average Price 1896.
Montreal .....	234	223½	24	235	222½	223½
Ontario .....	84	84	23	90	80	
People's Molsons .....						16
Toronto .....	175	175	100	177½	174	178
Jac. Cartier .....						212
Merchants' .....	166½	165	58	169	166	166
Commerce .....	128	126	23	130	126	127
Union .....						100
M. Teleg. .....	165	164	33			
" .....	162	162	100	163	160	164
Rich. & Ont. ....						95
St. R'y. ....	217½	216	454	216½	215½	207½
Gas .....	188	187	110			
Gas rd. ....	184	182	928	183	182½	203
C. Pacific Ry ...	57½	57	180	57½	57	61½
Land gr't bonds .....						107
N.W. Land pfd. ....						108
Bell Tele' .....				158	152½	157
Mont. 4% stock .....						

A CHINESE PILE DRIVER.

Cassier's Magazine.

Piles were being driven in one of the new buildings for a foundation for a punch. They were eight inches in diameter and fourteen feet long. The staging was bamboo, and so was the frame for the hammer, which was a round piece of cast iron with a hole in the centre for a guide rod. Attached to the hammer block were twenty-seven ropes, carried up to the top of the frame and down on the outside, looking very much like the old fashioned Maypole. Twenty-seven women had hold of the ends, and with a sing-song, all together, pulled down; up the rod, four feet, traveled the hammer; then, at a scream, all let go, and down it came on top the pile, which was unprotected by a band or ring. The women are paid 20 cents in gold per day. This Maypole driver is in general use throughout Japan and China.

DEBENTURES.

Municipal Debentures bought and sold, also Government and Railway Bonds. Securities suitable for Investment by Trustees and Insurance Companies and or Deposit with the Government, always on hand.

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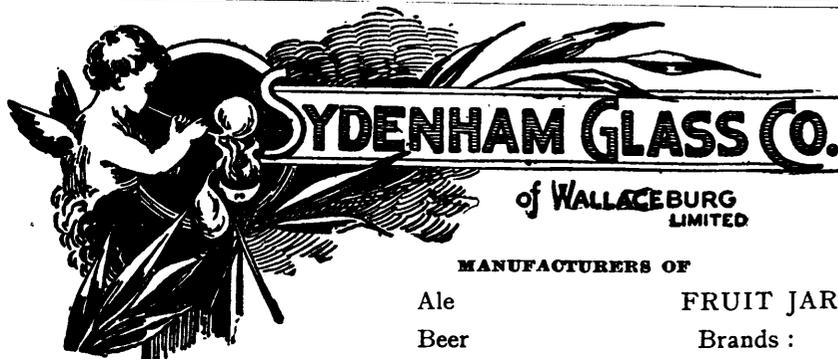
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